



ACCESSIBLE INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS (AIM)

Packet Introduction

In most schools, print-based instructional materials, such as textbooks, are a prime way of delivering curricular content. This system works fine for many learners. But for others – those who struggle to read because of physical, sensory, cognitive, or learning differences – such materials are not usable for learning.

These students need accessible instructional materials (AIM) in order to access the general education curriculum. Such access is guaranteed in federal education statutes, such as **IDEA** and **NCLB**, as well as **Iowa Rules of Special Education**.

To help students who struggle to decode or extract meaning from print-based materials, such as textbooks, federal law (**IDEA 2004**) requires State and Local Education Agencies to adopt the **National Instructional Materials Accessibility Standard (NIMAS)** and to determine efficient approaches to provide core curricular materials in accessible, NIMAS-compliant formats. IDEA also requires local education agencies to provide these specialized formats to **all** students who are identified as print disabled, whether or not they qualify for NIMAS-derived materials.

In this packet you will find the following:

- **What are AIM?** [Learn more about Accessible Instructional Materials](#)
- **Who are AIM for?** [Identifying students](#)
- **Why provide AIM?** [Understanding statutes](#)
- **How to provide AIM?** [Finding and implementing them](#)

You are encouraged to read all the documents contained in the packet and pass the information on to others. Questions and requests for more information can be directed to Steve Maurer, Consultant, Iowa Department of Education at 515-281-3576 or steve.maurer@iowa.gov.